

# THE BLURB

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is published monthly by, and for, the members of **The PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB, INC.** whose purpose is to promote Amateur Radio in general, and Mobile Radio in particular. Copying and quoting is permitted with a credit line. We gladly exchange publications with other amateur radio clubs; requests should be sent to the Editor. BLURB subscriptions are available to non-members for \$10.00 addressed to the Treasurer. The club meets at 7:30 PM on the first non-holiday WEDNESDAY of every month at The Franklin Institute Science Museum, Benjamin Franklin Parkway at 20th Street, Philadelphia. Use the Winter Street (north side) entrance.

### ALL VISITORS ARE WELCOME!

Amateur Radio License Examinations - the first non-holiday Thursday of every month  
at The Franklin Institute Science Museum-  
doors close at 6:30 PM-SHARP!

### CLUB INFORMATION

24-Hour Information Number at W3TKQ -(215) 448-1139  
Repeater frequencies: 147.03 (Bucks County input requires 131.8Hz PL)  
444.80 MHz (186.2 Hz PL)  
Simplex frequency: 147.51 MHz  
Packet BBS frequency at W3TKQ-10: 145.05 MHz  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 88, Abington, PA 19001

### STATIONS

W3QV - 147.03 MHz. Repeater - 8200 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, PA - Trustee W3BBB  
W3RQZ - 1176 Old York Road, Abington, PA - Trustee W3VVS  
W3TKQ - The Franklin Institute Science Museum, Philadelphia, PA - Trustee W3PWG  
**ALL LICENSED AMATEURS ARE WELCOME TO OPERATE W3TKQ.**

### OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: N3FVI, Bill Popovic, 343 Lemonte Street, Philadelphia, PA 19128 (215) 487-9472  
VICE PRESIDENT: N3GLH, Brad Swanson, 517 Cresheim Valley Road, Wynmoor, PA 19118 (215) 836-2475  
SECRETARY: WU3I, Steve Hoch, 4638 Oakland Street, Philadelphia, PA 19124 (215) 535-8061  
TREASURER: KB3IV, Ed Masarsky, 15 Poe Avenue, Wyncote, PA 19095 (215) 572-5238

### DIRECTORS

W3BBB (92); KC2HX (92); AK2I (93); W3IIM (A); K3KUD (A); N2RM (93); W3RM (A)

### COMMITTEES

Archives:	W3IIN	Emerg. Coord.:	W3BBB	Repeater:	W3BBB
BLURB:	W3IIM	Membership:	W3IIN	Special Events:	KA3EBC
Budget /Audit:	W3IIN	Net Control:	KB3IV	VE Program:	ND3Q
Directory:	WB3KOJ	Program:	N3GLH	TVI:	-----
DX:	-----	Publicity:	-----	W3TKQ:	W3PWG
Education:	N3FTZ	Refreshments:	N3FVI	Welcome:	-----

Special Liaison to The Franklin Institute Science Museum: AK2I

### BLURB STAFF

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N3DHI, WB3KOJ

Publisher/Typist: W3IIN

**DEADLINE:** To be assured of publication in the current month, all copy **MUST** be in the hands of the Editor at the Bored of Directors' Meeting!

## NET SCHEDULE

SUNDAY	09:30	147.030	MHz FM	"SUNDAY MORNING 2 METER NET"
	10:00	28.993	MHz SSB	"10-ON-10 NET"
	10:20	3.993	MHz SSB	75 METER NET
TUESDAY	20:00	147.030	MHz FM	CW PRACTICE NET
LAST WED	20:00	147.030	MHz FM	W3TKQ OPERATORS' NET



# APPLE BYTES

Don Gordon, WB3KOJ

### APRIL BIRTHDAYS

02 Frenchy Andrews - W3IRS  
05 Rob Moore - N2RM  
06 Alberta Clark (XYL KB3QE)  
Ed Faye W3RCE  
Pat Rush WT3X  
08 Jackie Chedeville (XYL W3GQD)  
15 Joan Clifford (XYL W3UY)  
Bob DiPasquale - WB3KAB  
16 Ray Garvin - W3GRY  
17 Ned Schlichting - N2EMN  
19 Hal Grace - W3HFY  
21 Laura Lusky (XYL W3APD)  
22 Russ Miller - K3NYN  
27 Bunny DiPasquale (XYL WB3KAB)  
Carl Vold - W3SGR  
28 Bess Rowland (XYL W3JIL)  
29 Alice Faries (XYL W3AOA)

### HELP PHIL-MONT

Are you planning to join ARRL or renew your current membership?  
**Remember: The ARRL is more than just a magazine subscription!**  
Help PHIL-MONT by joining or renewing through the club.  
Contact KB3IV for the details.

### AS PROMISED

You should have received your 1992 P.M.R.C. DIRECTORY with this BLURB.  
If you didn't, get in touch with Jack - W3IIM for a copy.  
If you find any errors in your listing please let me know,  
and the correction will appear here next month.

## THE PASSING OF THE BATON

Rolland Madera, W3PWG

W3TKQ, forty years at The Franklin Institute.

The original license of W3TKQ carries the date of 5 March 1952, so on that date it was forty years old, and has occupied four different areas, with five rebuildings of the station.

The original location was a horseshoe shaped counter with the operator in the middle, and located where the present cafe is on the second floor. Just a receiver and transmitter for hf, and later a couple of other items. The first time I saw it was in 1953 when my wife and I visited the institute.

In 1962 that whole room was rebuilt to house the bell telephone exhibit, the weather station, and a new W3TKQ with a beautiful Collins console set up, plus a ten meter cabinet for Phil-Mont operations.

The station was adjacent to the man-made lightning exhibit which was also demonstrated by the same operator.

Nelson Schurr was the chief operator then, with help from Paul Singewald, Les Ransom and Sam Moskowitz. When Les dropped out in 1972 I took his place. Then,

when Nelson decided to retire, Frank Whitten joined us.

In 1978 that room was dismantled, and the lightning and W3TKQ moved to the east end of the electrical room, at the other end of the building. We operated there for several years, until they decided to rebuild that room, and we were banished to the old storeroom up on the fourth floor.

Sam had dropped out due to illness, and Jack Kramer joined us, and later John Russell.

We did the best we could with what we had, but then we all were laid off and the fun started.

We now have a beautiful station in that old storeroom, with all the latest equipment, and a lot of volunteer operators who are finding that it is an interesting place to work and meet the public.

The first trustee was Fred Shaw, W3ADV, who, in 1975, transferred the responsibility to me.

Soon it will be time for another change.

FCC Form 660 Rev. Nov. 1950		UNITED STATES OF AMERICA		EXPIRES
STATION CALL SIGN		FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION		3 a. m., e. s. t.
W 3 T K Q		WASHINGTON, D. C.		3-5-57
		AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE		
NOT TRANSFERABLE	Fixed transmitter location: (and remote control position when authorized)			
	THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE			
	20TH AND BENJAMIN			
	FRANKLIN PARKWAY, PHILADELPHIA PA.			
	Licensee and P. O. Address:			
	FREDWOOD S. SHAW, TRUSTEE			
	HAVERFORD TOWNSHIP EMERGENCY			
	RADIO NET			
	(This license issued subject to conditions shown on reverse side)			
	Secretary			
Operator Privileges	Issuing Officer	Date of Issuance		
Class CLUB STA	<i>Edmond Schurr</i>	3-5-52		
Class				
Class				

Countersigned

## The PREZ SEZ

Bill Popovic, N3FVI



Simplex is a fancy-sounding word for a direct contact on a single frequency. After you've made a contact on a repeater, move the conversation to a simplex frequency if possible. The function of a repeater is to provide communications between stations not able to communicate directly because of distance, terrain, or equipment limitations. Always use simplex whenever possible so that the repeater will be available for stations that need its facilities.

Simplex communication offers some privacy, and there's no time-out timer or courtesy tone to worry about.

When selecting a frequency, make sure it's designated for FM simplex operation. If

you select a frequency indiscriminately, you may interfere with stations that you can't hear operating in other modes, such as satellite communications.

Repeaters are intended to enhance mobile and portable communications. During mobile operating prime time, fixed stations should yield to mobile stations. But don't abandon the repeater, your help may be needed in an emergency.

This article isn't pointed at any one person, or intended to discourage repeater use. It's just a reminder to all, and especially me. During drive times, keep transmissions short, and wait for the courtesy tone. Hope to hear you on '03!

Sam's  
CORNER

To Phil Monters  
MY APOLOGIES TO THOSE  
CALLS MISSING ON THE COVER.  
MY LISTING IS OLD AND  
SORT OF RAGGED... SO I KNOW  
I MISSED SOMEBODY'S CALL!

## LOOKAHEAD

Apr 1 **General Meeting Program:**  
N3AOG, Dick Comly  
"Is there life above 450 MHz?"  
(See article in this issue.)

Apr 2 License Examinations  
Apr 5 M.S. Super City Walk  
Apr 15 Directors' Meeting at  
W3GQD's

May 6 **General Meeting Program:**  
ARRL Update with Kay, WT3P

May 7 License Examinations  
May 20 Directors' Meeting at  
AK2I's

June 3 **General Meeting**  
June 4 License Examinations

## HAMFESTS

Apr 12 NEW CASTLE, DE  
Pen-Del ARC

Apr 24-26 DAYTON, OH  
Hamvention

May 17 WRIGHTSTOWN, PA  
Warminster ARC

Jul 26 TIMONIUM, MD  
BRATS

Aug 9 WARRINGTON, PA  
Mid-Atlantic ARC

Aug 16 ALLENTOWN AREA  
Delaware Lehigh ARC

Oct 4 GARDEN STATE RACETRACK  
Packrats

Oct 18 BENSLEM, PA  
Penn Wireless Assn.

**Note:** The RF Hill Hamfest, formerly held at the Armory in Sellersville, will be held in Dublin (Rt 313 between Doylestown and Quakertown) this year. Date to be announced.

## V.E. TEST LOCATIONS

Confirm all information, in advance, with the contact person. Licensed applicants must bring a their original license and one photocopy of it. All applicants, including children, must present positive ID. Also bring the original, and a copy, of any Certificate of Successful Completion needed to prove current status. The ARRL VEC's 1992 test fee is \$5.40; there is no charge for a Novice test.

Monthly, 1st Thursday  
**The FRANKLIN INSTITUTE**  
Dusty Rhoads, ND3Q  
(215) 482-0386  
(215) 879-0505

Monthly, 3rd Thursday  
**BELLMAN, NJ**  
Bill Helmatag  
(609) 546-7710

**BRYN MAWR**  
Bob Haase, W3SA  
(215) 293-1919

Monthly, 2nd Wednesday **NEW!**  
**HUNTINGDON VALLEY**  
Phil Isard, WF3W  
(215) 938-7917 **from Delmont**

Monthly, 1st Thursday  
**LEVITTOWN**  
Dave Heller, K3TX  
(215) 946-1040  
(215) 736-3333

Monthly, 1st Tuesday  
**POTTSTOWN**  
Warren Erdman K3ZXQ  
(215) 679-5764

Monthly, 3rd Wednesday  
**RICHBORO**  
Dave Munson, NM3K  
(215) 788-7515

Monthly, 3rd Monday  
**TELFORD**  
Warren Erdman K3ZXQ  
(215) 679-5764

Monthly, Last Saturday  
**UNIVERSITY OF PA**  
Jeff DePolo, WN3A  
(215) 898-8538  
(215) 386-7199

Odd Months, Last Wednesday  
**WARMINSTER**  
Tom Michaud, WA3TQJ  
(215) 343-3494

of media attention recently when it was reported that there had been technical difficulties and the government had no plans to bring the crew members back to earth. Colonel Krikalev, the cosmonaut who has been speaking regularly with Manus, was due to return to earth in October, but because of his engineering skills and the need to economize, he has had to stay. A mission to bring a replacement engineer has been cancelled until March.

According to Manus, Colonel Krikalev receives only £5 per month, while he is in space. When he spoke with the "Derry People & Donegal News," Manus played back a recording of the "link-up" he has had with the cosmonauts. Although there are obvious technical difficulties on the transmissions, their conversation is quite clear and the cosmonaut speaks reasonably good English.

Colonel Krikalev told Manus, in one of their transmissions, that he had been in space since May of last year, and was anxious to come home, but did say that standards of accommodation about the station were high.

"They have excellent facilities which include a video and shower. Sergei told me that he is aware of the great changes in his country since he left. He told me that his communist card is now invalid," Manus said.

Manus said that through the assistance of another radio amateur in Sligo, he was able to plot the orbit line of the space station and establish its coordinates.

Their conversations last for approximately three minutes, and Sergei, through his ground station in Khazikistan, has sent a document to verify their first link-up back in September.

Manus first became interested in amateur radio in 1980 when a friend from Derry, who was with the Signal Corps in the desert

campaign during the Second World War, told him about radio transmissions. He got his VHF license in 1980, and has successfully passed City and Guilds examinations to operate on all amateur bands. His equipment is basically a forty foot vertical dipole and a VHF transmitter which operates on all of the VHF bands. Manus explained that most of the contacts he would have had with the station occurred between 2 and 5 p.m. during the day, or between 6 and 11 p.m. at night.

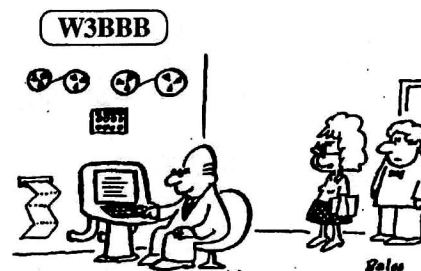
"When Sergei gave me his coordinates, during one of our conversations recently, I put him somewhere off the coast of Kerry. However, he has told me that on a clear day he can see Donegal quite clearly," Manus said.

*Derry People & Donegal News*

From KC2HXC:

"Manus is a friend of mine who lives in my son-in-law's home town in Ireland. I'll be seeing him in June."

*[Arnie, by flying first class exclusively, will singularly pull the ailing airline industry out of recession!—Ed]*



"\$175,000 for that setup, and he hunts and pecks!"



## Cosmic link-up for Irish radio enthusiast



A licensed radio amateur from Falcarragh has been in regular contact, over the last few months, with the two cosmonauts aboard the Russian Space Station "MIR." He is Manus McClafferty from Erraroeey, a member of the Irish Radio Transmitters Society who first established contact with the crew members, Colonel Alexander Volkov and Colonel Sergei Krikalev, on September 24th.

The cosmonauts, as part of their scientific experiments, contact radio amateurs worldwide.

In December, 1983, Manus had a "link-up" with the American Space Shuttle "Columbia," and also has enjoyed contact with radio amateurs from places such as Australia, South Africa, Japan and China.

The Russian space station was the focus

## MINUTES

### MARCH GENERAL MEETING

*Steve Hoch, WU3I, Secretary*



N3FVI called the 508th General Meeting of the Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club to order at 7:47 pm on March 5th.

The first order of business was a letter drafted to Congressman Thomas M. Foglietta in support of H.R. 73—copies were available and urged to be signed, and Ted, NZ3Q, would send them in.

KB3IV reported that the treasury was still in good shape, and dues were doing well... some new members and some old members lost to the clouds. N3GWG was seen paying his dues!!!!

KA3EBC reported that the special events are Cancer Society Bikathon 7/12, Super Cities Walk 4/5, and the Corestates Bike Race 6/7.

AK2I reported that Ted, N3FTZ, could use some helpers on the Sunday classes. The classes are doing well.

W3IIN reported one new member Mark Zaharchuk (Jake recruited another one).

AK2I reported that things at W3TKQ are moving along. He is working on a Kenwood TS 450 to replace the Drake TR7 which is up for sale. The new lock was

installed—anyone with an old key please contact Jake for a new one. Training classes were announced for the new equipment: 3/13—IC970 satellite rig and computer; 3/20—ATV and RTTY training; 3/27—packet radio. All sessions start at 7:30 pm at W3TKQ.

The packet station will be staying "as is" with the addition of an Alinco packet radio and mailbox services. All volunteer operators are reminded of the operators' net at 8 PM on the last Wednesday of the month.

NS3Z announced that the Institute is open Thursday nights till 9 pm for an under-the-stars night, with the 4th floor being featured because of the observatory. Operators are invited in to man the station.

WU3I announced an Outgoing QSL Service for club members—see article below.

Attending were 29 members and 9 guests: Evan Hagerty, N3LPM; Bill Hagerty, N3KUJ; Bob Wolfgang, Jr (waiting for call); Walt Wood, KA3MBE; Ted Newman; Jay Anderson, N3JMC; Larry Persofsky, N3INO; Jacob Persofsky, N3INY; and Bobby Johnston.

The 50-50 was won by N3KGH.

### OUTGOING QSL SERVICE

Starting immediately, PMRC has an outgoing QSL service. This service will be most beneficial for the light-to-medium QSLer. Currently, W3TKQ does not send a pound of cards a month to the bureau. By league rules ARRL club members can take advantage of this service.

NOTE: those sending out upwards of a half pound or more at a time would be assessed a charge depending on the amount from 'TKQ that month. (PACKAGES OF 1 POUND OR MORE SHOULD BE SENT DIRECTLY TO THE BUREAU.)

To use this service is simple: sort your cards as you would for the bureau, and enclose your QST label. The deadline is the monthly General Meeting in my hands.

ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CALL 215-535-8061. WU3I

## MINUTES

## MARCH DIRECTORS' MEETING

Steve Hoch, WU3I, Secretary

N3FVI called the meeting to order at 8:19 pm on March 18th, at the home of N3GLU & KB3IV. In attendance were W3s RM, IIM & N, BBB, KB3IV, AK2I, N3DHI, NS3Z, N3FVI, K3KUD, and WU3I.

KB3IV gave the treasurer's report: expenses out paced income by almost \$36, but Ed. reports that the club is still solvent. Also reported was the loss of 7 regular re-ups, however "new members" has been doing well.

W3IIN reported on new member Mark Zaharchuk, WA3CRM, and apologized for his application not being printed in the March *BLURB*. WU3I made a motion to accept; seconded by W3RM. WELCOME MARK. Also reported: 3 more applications for the April *BLURB*.

W3IIM reported that the directory will be in the April issue, and he is always looking for guest writers.

N3FVI reported that Ted, N3FTZ, could use some assistance on Sundays at the training sessions—11:00 to 1:00 in the Institute's room 502.

KB3IV reported that the net controls are OK. Anyone interested in helping out should contact Ed.

W3BBB (looking very fit and tanned) reported that the UHF power amplifier has been repaired by WA3UTI and is back in service. A backup is available for a very reasonable price. The board approved purchase. N3DHI reported that the repeater was drifting off frequency, and found that a new TCXO would cost \$25. The Board approved the purchase.

AK2I reported that the training seminars for W3TKQ are proceeding nicely, and by press time, there will have been three seminars on consecutive Fridays ending on the 27th.

The packet BBS is up and running, and the training seminar on packet and the BBS is on the 27th. The Alinco data radio was received and installed; thanks to the nice folks at Alinco and Trevoise for the donation.

Jake reported on a call he got via WB3KOJ (who was actually operating the station at TKQ!!!) from John McDevitt, V.P. in charge of operations (or as Don said: V.P. of walls) at the Institute. He assured Jake all the materials were ready, and as soon as he could free up the manpower, the wall [*sliding glass doors—Ed*] would be installed!

N3DHI presented to Jake a video camera, from Edgehill Fire Company, as a donation to W3TKQ.

The Drake gear was reported as sold to KB3CT.

We need weekday operators for the station. The weekends are well staffed. Maybe some of those retired folks might be able to spare a day here and there.

## NEW BUSINESS

KB3IV reported that Angelo, K3YUN, had contacted him about Phil-Mont sponsoring his daughter, KA2ZMK, in her application for Amateur Scholarships. Decisions were tabled to await paperwork from Angelo.

N3FVI motioned that the meeting be adjourned, W3RM seconded at 9:42 P.M.

## Here's What You Can Do!

Senator Arlen Specter  
303 Hart Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

-or-

Senator Harris Wofford  
283 Russell Building  
Washington, DC 20510

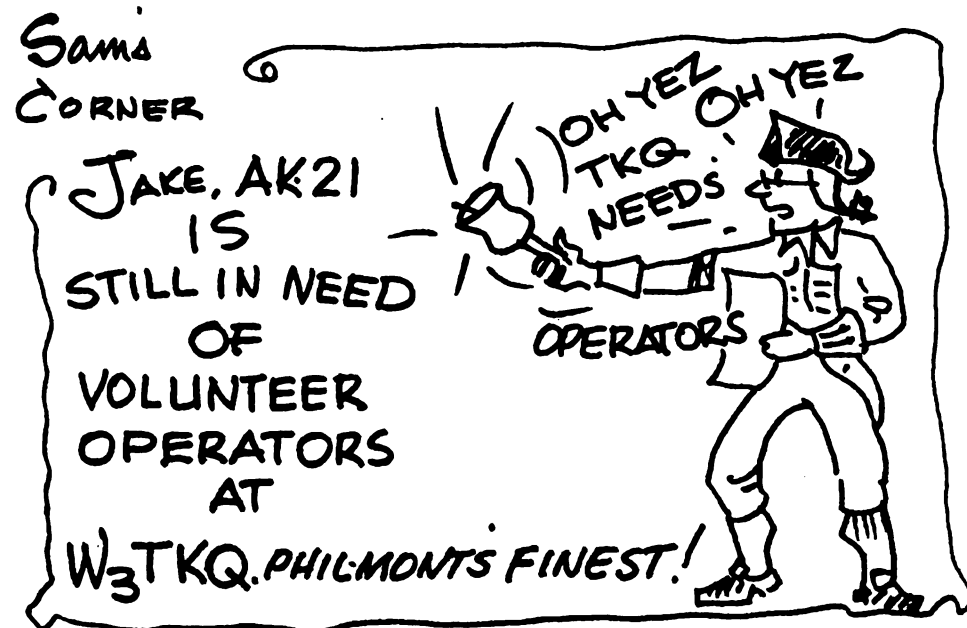
Dear Senator XXXXX:

As a concerned voter in Pennsylvania, I strongly urge you to go on record as a co-sponsor of S. 1372, the "Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act." This bill will help protect Amateur (Ham) Radio frequencies by requiring the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to replace, by equal amount, any frequencies that they may reallocate for other services.

Over 545,548 Americans own and operate "Ham" radios in their free time. Over 19,000 of these operators live in the State of Pennsylvania. In times of emergency, such as tornados, hurricanes, floods, or man-made disasters, it is the ham radio operators who provide a volunteer network which offers helpful communications services to the public.

Please help us get this bill through committee and the congress. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely yours,



## It's Your Spectrum They're Talking About!

Ted Coats, NZ3Q

This is some background on the "Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act."

As of this date we now have 26 U.S. Senators who co-sponsor S. 1372, and 163 Congressmen who co-sponsor H.R. 73. Both bills are basically identical to each other.

We have just brought Congressman Foglietta on board as a co-sponsor, by the efforts of State Representative Babette Josephs in whose district The Franklin Institute is located. Presently only a few Pennsylvania congressmen are on board as co-sponsors of H.R. 73. They are:

Thomas Foglietta (D-1)  
Joe Kolter (D-4)  
Peter Kostmayer (D-8)  
Paul Kanjorski (D-11)  
John Murtha (D-12)  
Bill Clinger (R-23)

Both bills are still in committee, and we need to get a majority of co-sponsors to make sure that the bill will pass both houses of congress. According to Perry Williams (Regulatory Branch - ARRL HQ), it is now time to have a push to get more co-sponsors, and get the bills out of committee and to the floor. I expect that something about this will be in QST soon.

From experience, I have found that to get congressmen on board, it is best, after sending him a letter, to get one's state representative and state senator to also send a

letter of support to the congressman in question. Having once worked for a congressman, I know that they pay little attention to a few petitions, but they get concerned when they receive letters from state representatives and state senators, upon whose political power base they depend for re-election. This same ploy also works for U.S. Senators.

In addition, after getting one's congressman to co-sponsor the bill, it is good to get him to also send a letter of support to the U.S. Senator. This may take some effort on our member's part, but if we wish to avoid another 220 MHz problem, we must get on the stick. This affects us all, and if we do nothing, then commercial interests will surely go after our frequencies.

If our members do not know who is their elected state representative or state senator, I can provide them with that information if I know the ward they live in. This info is on their voters registration card. I can be reached at 222-1890, which is my answering machine. Also, this same info can be sent, free of charge, by the 'Committee Of Seventy', which is a non-profit, non-partisan public interest group. Ask for: Election Calendar '92 and Election Calendar '92 Suburban Supplement. These can be had by calling (215) 545-0104, or by writing to: Committee Of Seventy, Suite 910, 1420 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102

**"DON'T TAILGATE—WAIT"—for the courtesy chime!**

The Olympia Radio Club will have in operation a special event station on May 2 & 3, commemorating the 94th anniversary of the battle of Manila Bay. More information next month.

# THE W 3 T K Q

The Franklin Institute Science Museum

## REPORT

by  
Jake Kovalchek,  
AK2I

The last seminar for the W3TKQ operators will have been completed by the time you read this. I want to thank those that were involved and received the training, as well as those that acted as instructors and provided us with some very valuable information. The Satellite program and the ICOM 970 was ably handled by Bill, N3FVI, and what a beautiful job was done. We received everything we needed to know and his patience was great, considering how many of us knew absolutely nothing about the satellites. Then came Ron Cohen, K3ZKO, from the ATV corner of Amateur radio. Ron was brilliant in his help for all of those that needed the training on ATV. The fact that we now have all those new modes in which to express ourselves is exciting beyond belief.

On March 27 we will hold our last seminar on the Packet station by KD3VE, Vic Tenaglia, who, by the way, has become a full fledged operator at W3TKQ. We couldn't be happier to receive his expertise in Packet. I'll tell all of those interested in packet right now that we have the finest program BBS (Bulletin Board System) in the AA4RE packet BBS system. It's the most powerful and comprehensive program I have ever seen, and we have accomplished more this past few weeks than we have accomplished in packet in the last six months.

For example, we are now a member of the National Traffic System, and one of the most important features of our packet station will be the capability of processing messages through that system to families all over the country. We will have a large poster set-up in the station to indicate "Send A Message to Your Loved Ones." We will be offering that service at W3TKQ just as soon as the control operators, and the system, can be taught to those interested in the process. I know we will have an overflow of volunteers.

We also want to announce that we have acquired a new TS450 Kenwood for console position number five, and new ICOM 725 for position number six. Those units will be built into the console just as soon as Jim, W3BBB, can find the time.

W3TKQ just became more functional and more attractive than since the day she opened.

The article, written about your club station, has been accepted by the ARRL, and will soon be published in QST. Be on the lookout for it soon.

Watch out World! Here comes Phil-Mont and W3TKQ again!

## LAST CALL FOR DAYTON BUS

Bus leaves North Jersey on Thursday morning, and, in the past, has made pickups in Fort Washington, Lancaster and Harrisburg. Arrives Dayton Friday morning.

Price \$275 for single; \$450 for husband and wife.

### Included:

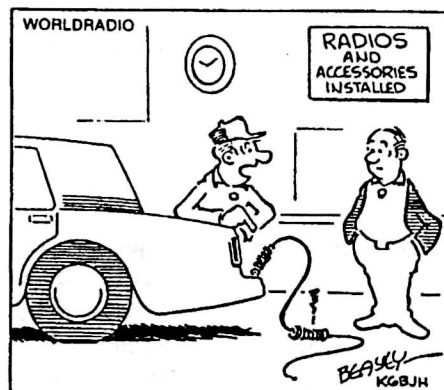
- Bus transportation to and from Hamvention.
- Motel for 3 or 4 nights (depending on return schedule).
- Tickets to Hamvention for all three days.
- Tickets to Saturday night banquet.

### Contact:

Mike DePersio, KC2Q  
PO Box 357  
Bradley Beach, NJ 07720  
(908) 774-1095

WU3I

## MASARSKY's ANTENNA INSTALLATION SERVICE



WORST CASE OF METAL FATIGUE I'VE EVER SEEN

## W3TKQ Operators' Net

The last Wednesday of every month.  
**Don't Miss It!**

## LICENSES SMUDGE

At the 1991 Dayton Hamvention, John Johnston, W3BE, the FCC Personal Radio Branch Chief, announced the change to an entirely new form for licenses issued by the FCC in the Amateur Service. The new form is actually two licenses of equal authority, beautifully laser-printed on the same 8½ X 11 in. paper—one designed for framing, the other obviously meant for folding to carry in pocket or purse. Within weeks, the FCC changed the form to insert a printed warning on the margin, meant for trimming, to the effect that the laser printing involved is subject to smudging, and advising those who carry the small license on their person to protect it by lamination or otherwise.

Less than one year into the use of this form, VEs in the examination room are encountering original licenses that are smudged beyond legibility. If you have one of the new licenses, and it is not laminated or otherwise adequately protected from both moisture and abrasion, we recommend leaving the original at home and carrying a photocopy. The copy will serve as a legal document for mobile operation, and the original will surely last its ten years.

*WorldRadio*

### NEWSLETTERS EXCHANGED

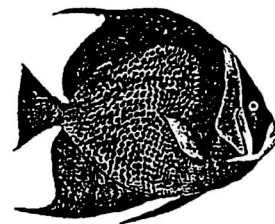
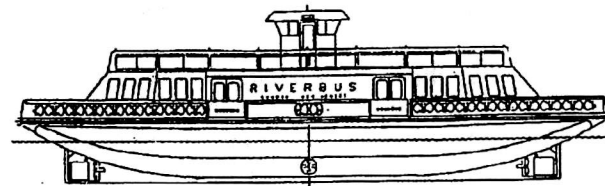
Baltimore Radio Amateur Television Society (BRATS)  
Cherryville Repeater Association (NJ)  
Delaware-Lehigh Amateur Radio Club (DLARC)  
Delmont Radio Club  
EASTLINK  
Mid-Atlantic Amateur Radio Club (MARC)  
Mobile Sixers Radio Club  
Penn Wireless Association  
R F Hill Amateur Radio Club  
Reading Radio Club  
Sussex Amateur Radio Ass'n (SARA) (Delaware)  
Tompkins County Amateur Radio Club (New York)  
Warminster Amateur Radio Club  
Worldradio Magazine

*Exchanges with additional parties are welcomed.*

## SPECIAL EVENT STATION K3SSC

April 4-5, 1992

COMMEMORATING the opening of the new Camden, NJ, Thomas W. Kean Aquarium and the re-opening of the Delaware River ferry between the aquarium and Philadelphia's Penn's Landing. Delmont Radio Club station K3SSC operated on SSB and CW on 147.165, 28.465, 14.265, 14.065 and 7.106 MHz to celebrate the event.

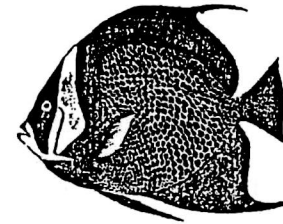


K3SSC  
DELMONT RADIO CLUB

Confirming a contact with

\_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_

at \_\_\_\_\_ Z. Your signal  
report \_\_\_\_\_.



## DELMONT Special Event Station

The DELMONT ARC will operate K3SSC, a special-event station commemorating the opening of the **NEW JERSEY AQUARIUM** and the restoration of ferry service between Philadelphia and Camden.

Schedule: April 4, 1100Z — April 5, 2100Z

Frequencies: 7.106; 14.065; 14.265; 28.465; 147.165

A certificate will be offered.

### CLUB INFORMATION

24 Hour Information Number at W3TKQ  
**(215) 448-1139**

Volunteers are needed for the M.S. Society's **Super Cities Walk** in the Philadelphia area. Contact Charlie, KA3EBC, if you can help with communications. The date is April 5th. The "walk" will take about four or five hours to complete. Your help will be greatly appreciated!



## 83RD MONTHLY VE SESSION STATISTICS MARCH

18 candidates pass 24 elements  
6 new amateurs plus 7 upgrades

VE team members:

Dusty Rhoads, ND3Q, Chairman

George Starks, AA2FU; Rob Moore, N2RM; Edmund Rush, WT3X; Bob Forrester, NS3Z

AMATEUR LICENSE EXAMS HELD ON THE FIRST  
NON-HOLIDAY THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH

Registration begins at 6:00 PM

Doors close at 6:30 PM sharp

THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE  
SCIENCE MUSEUM

For Information Call ND3Q at  
(215) 482-0386 or 879-0505

Accessible by the handicapped.



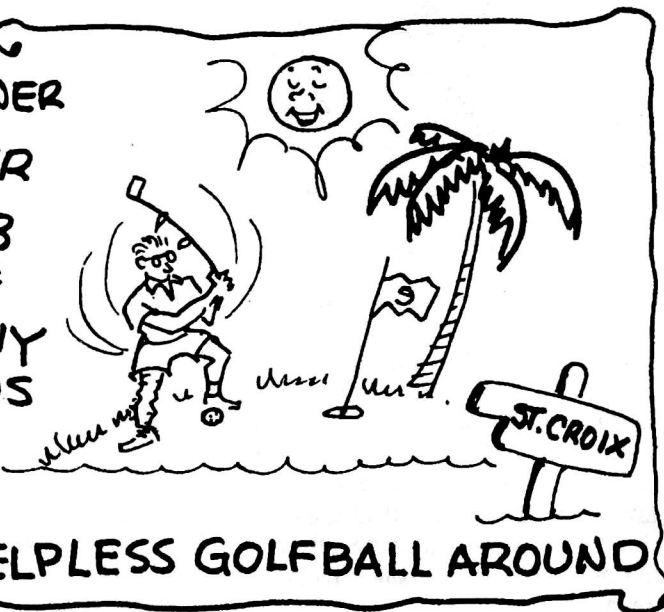
Sam's  
KATTYKORNER

SPENCER

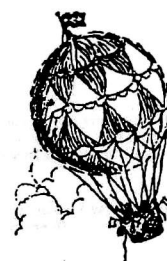
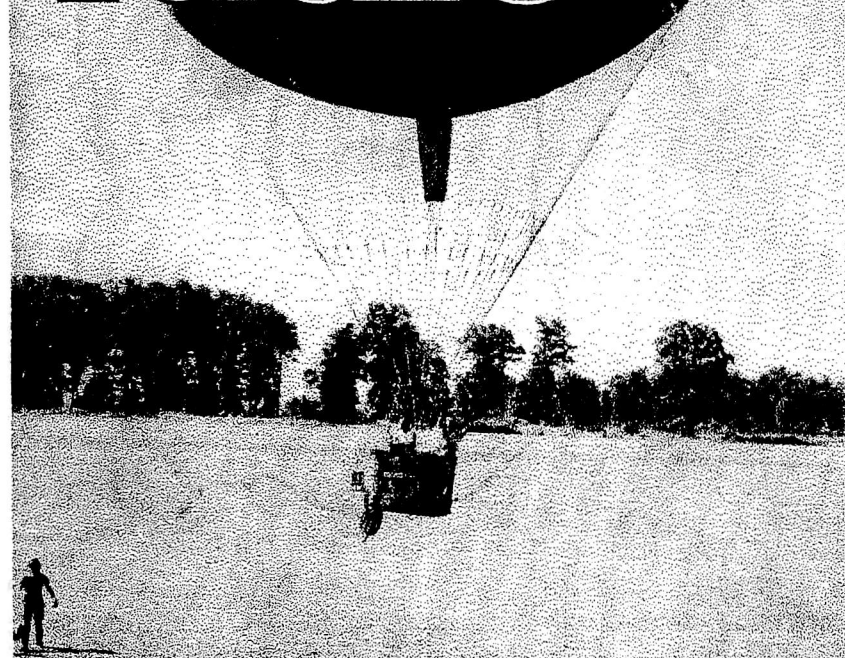
W3BBB  
IS OFF  
TO SUNNY  
ISLANDS  
TO

BASH A

POOR HELPLESS GOLF BALL AROUND



# QST amateur radio



**W3RQZ**  
BALLOONATICAL  
MOBILE

CONFIRMING QSO OF 4 JULY 1989  
FROM W3RQZ, BALLOONATICAL  
MOBILE AT HRS.  
UN 29.493 SIGS.  
FROM EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA

**Balloon Mobile**  
BY ROBERT G. THOMAS, W3QZO



Subscribe through your club. It costs you nothing more, but Phil-Mont retains \$2 for its treasury. Contact KB3IV

# Subscription form

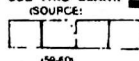
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inch-diameter, 1 $\frac{3}{4}$  inch-thick aluminum disc. The pedestal that holds the dish (borrowed from my son's telescope on contest week-ends), is bolted to the top plate. The steel plate is marked every 10° around its circumference for aiming purposes.

I built a fixture (similar to a gin pole) to



Pat, WB3DNI (left) and Dick, N3AOG with 8' and 4' dishes, and 144 MHz Yagi next to Pat.

use to hoist the dish into place. Dish elevation is controlled by a pivot at the top of the pedestal, and azimuth aiming is done by rotating the dish, pedestal and steel plate. This whole assembly weighs in at just under a thousand pounds. Getting the dish from its transportation position to its operating position takes about 15 minutes. It takes another 10 minutes to unpack and connect the rigs, and five minutes to change bands (including dish feeds).

Pat, WB3DNI, Brian, N3EXA, and I drove to Camelback Mountain, Pennsylvania, for the Super Rover's initiation. On 2304 and 3456 MHz, we ran 8 to 10mW, and 10W at 903 and 1296 MHz. Results were outstanding. We had excellent signal reports from stations in Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey, 100-125 miles away. We expected to have problems if the wind picked up, as the wind load of an 8-foot dish is probably enough to tip over the truck with a strong wind. As it was, a gentle breeze rocked the pickup, but two jack stands under the frame cured that problem nicely.

For the ARRL June VHF QSO Party, Pat and I planned an aggressive trip, starting at Camelback and working south, then west to grid square FN01. Unfortunately, I fell ill at Camelback, and had to drop out of the contest early. Pat continued on our original schedule, by himself, using a 4-foot backup dish.

In retrospect, getting the Super Rover on the air was a massive project, but I enjoyed every minute of it. It helps a whole lot that my wife, Janice, N3CFE, is an Extra Class ham. She somehow understands this madness! My sons, Chris, KA3EAQ, and Jim, N3DCR, also have a unique perspective on these activities.

Since I built the Super Rover, and considering its ease of use, I plan to be on the microwave bands more often throughout the year. This should help those seeking VHF/UHF Century Club (VUCC) awards. See you on the microwaves!

Dick Comly, N3AOG, was first licensed as WB3HXC in 1977. He's now an Extra Class licensee who works as a toolmaker. He has been involved in the Volunteer Examiner program since its inception, is active in the National Traffic System, and has taught Novice classes sponsored by the Warminster (PA) Amateur Radio Club. [...and breakfasts with KB3IV-Ed]

QST Magazine

## Who was that Guest Operator at W3TKQ?



It has been said that 200 years after his death, Benjamin Franklin is alive and well, and speaking to people of all ages through Ralph Archbold, a native of Michigan, who shares Franklin's likeness, his incisive wit and, uncannily, his birthday!

The Ben buff also enjoys an almost equally eventful career: Archbold has given more than 6,500 performances and speeches as Franklin. He regularly plane-hops across the country or the Atlantic to speak at conventions, act in corporate productions or promote The City of Brotherly Love. His picture has appeared on the cover of USA Today [and hopefully QST Magazine—Ed]; he has been written up in dozens of publications, including The Wall Street Journal; and he has been interviewed on "The Today Show." Archbold is distinguished as a motivator. He has stimulated and delighted thousands at corporate meetings, conventions and schools.

## The Super Rover

Dick Comly, N3AOG  
*Speaker at April General Meeting*

*N3AOG takes UHF/SHF mountaintop operation seriously with this four-band mobile setup.*

After building SHF Systems transverter kits for the 903 through 3456 MHz ham bands, my thoughts turned to antennas. I pondered the Yagi; loop Yagis ("loopers") are readily available, but I've always had a burning desire to build a dish. I researched every publication I could find, and I decided to build the biggest stressed parabolic reflector I could afford.

I happened to mention this project to Bob Peters, NW3E, who has a lot of experience in UHF and microwave links. Serendipitously, Bob had an eight-foot Andrew solid dish lying in his backyard! Less than 24 hours later, I had the dish in my backyard. A thousand thanks, Bob! Unfortunately, the dish had been sawed in half to facilitate its removal via an elevator when it was taken out of commercial service. Several hours of reconstructive surgery were required before my pride and joy was whole again. I decided to use slotted dipole/splash-plate feeds and constructed one for each of the four bands. Friends in the electronics industry helped out by testing the feeds on network analyzers. At this point I was really getting excited!

### A Dish Mounted in a Pickup Truck?

The next problem I had to address was mounting this monster for mobile-microwave operation ("roving") during VHF/UHF contests. My pickup truck was the logical choice, but a few basic criteria had to be met. This whole apparatus had to be handleable by two men (the usual operator complement on a rover trip). In the bed of the truck, I mounted a 28-inch-diameter, 1<sup>5</sup>/<sub>16</sub> inch-thick steel plate, pivoted in the center, atop a 34-

## TORNADO DETECTOR

The following procedure uses a readily available means to detect the presence of a tornado.

Turn your TV receiver to channel 13, and turn the volume down. Using the brightness control, darken the screen to almost black. Now switch to channel 2.

Lightning in the area will produce momentary white bands of varying widths across the screen. Color sets will display colored bands against the black background. A tornado within 15 to 20 miles will produce a totally white screen which will remain white (or colored on color sets). This occurs because lightning and tornados generate RF energy which is strong at 55 MHz (channel 2). Channel 13 is at the high end of the VHF TV band and is not affected by this RF noise.

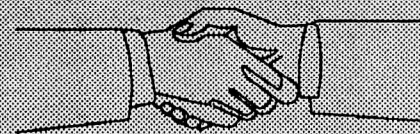
If a TV is not available, tune an AM radio to a weak station or to a blank part of the spectrum. The amount of static heard will be proportional to the occurrence and magnitude of the lightning discharge. A tornado will cause steady, almost continuous static.

Notify your local emergency management agency (EMA) when this happens.  
*W3ICC Bucks County EMA*

## THE SUN ECLIPSES SOAPS—

this time of year, Toshiba America recently reminded satellite dish owners. As the vernal equinox unfolds, the sun briefly travels behind satellites, and solar microwaves can overwhelm man-made ones. Toshiba noted that television screens could be hit with "sparkles" for a half hour or so in the afternoon until March 12.

*The Wall Street Journal*



## NEW MEMBER APPLICATIONS

**CALL:** N3JMC  
**NAME:** Jay Anderson  
**HANDLE:** Jay  
**CLASS:** Technician  
**ADDRESS:** 8003 Ardmore Avenue  
Wyndmoor, PA 19118  
**HOME PHONE:** (215) 836-1225  
**BUSINESS PHONE:** (609) 252-6039  
**OCCUPATION:** Sys. Admin.  
**INTERESTS:** Repeater, Technical

**CALL:** N3KUJ  
**NAME:** Bill Hagerty  
**HANDLE:** Bill  
**CLASS:** General  
**ADDRESS:** 2308 Century Avenue  
Bristol, PA 19007  
**HOME PHONE:** (215) 785-1831  
**BUSINESS PHONE:** (215) 657-7330  
**OCCUPATION:** Sales Supervisor  
**INTERESTS:** Membership

**CALL:** N2OML  
**NAME:** Robert Ross  
**HANDLE:** Bob  
**CLASS:** Technician  
**ADDRESS:** 3 Larsen Park Drive  
Medford, NJ 08055  
**HOME PHONE:** (609) 985-5224  
**BUSINESS PHONE:** (215) 238-4952  
**OCCUPATION:** Television Engineer  
**INTERESTS:** Publicity, Repeater, Technical

1992

APRIL

1992

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			<b>1</b> <small>WA3AUN N3AXJ K3PHC K3VXU</small> <b>GENERAL MEETING</b> <small>at</small> <b>The Franklin Institute</b> <small>Refreshments at 7:00 PM Meeting starts after 7:30</small>	<b>2</b> <small>AK2I</small> <b>LICENSE EXAMS</b> <small>at</small> <b>The Franklin Institute</b> <small>Registration begins at 6:00 Doors close at 6:30 PM sharp!</small>	<b>3</b> <small>WU3I W3LKI NS3Z</small>	<b>4</b> <small>AG2H K3JJO K3TEF NS3Y W3YLT</small> <b>DELMONT ARC SPECIAL EVENT STATION NJ AQUARIUM</b> <i>Standard Time Ends</i>
<b>5</b> <small>AA2FU WB3JUA WT3X NS3Y KT3Z</small>  <b>2M NCS K3JJO</b> <b>10M NCS ANYONE</b> <b>75M NCS W3PWG</b> <b>Super City Walk</b> <i>Daylight Savings Begins</i>	<b>6</b> <small>W3PWG NS3Z</small>	<b>7</b> <small>N3ALW W2GMA WT3P</small> <b>CODE PRACTICE NET at 8 PM W3RM</b>	<b>8</b> <small>WA3AUN N3AXJ K3PHC K3VXU</small>	<b>9</b> <small>N3FVI AK2I</small>	<b>10</b> <small>WU3I W3LKI NS3Z</small>	<b>11</b> <small>N3GMH AG2H K3TEF NS3Y</small>
<b>12</b> <small>AA2FU WB3JUA WT3X NS3Y KT3Z</small> <b>2M NCS NS3Y</b> <b>10M NCS ANYONE</b> <b>75M NCS W3AOA</b> <i>Palm Sunday Pen-Del Hamfest</i>	<b>13</b> <small>W3PWG NS3Z</small>	<b>14</b> <small>N3ALW W2GMA WT3P</small> <b>CODE PRACTICE NET at 8 PM N3ALW</b>	<b>15</b> <small>WA3AUN N3AXJ K3PHC K3VXU</small> <b>DIRECTORS' MEETING at W3GQD's</b>	<b>16</b> <small>AK2I</small>	<b>17</b> <small>WU3I W3LKI NS3Z</small> <i>Good Friday</i>	<b>18</b> <small>N3GMH AG2H K3TEF NS3Y</small> <i>Passover</i>
<b>19</b> <small>AA2FU WB3JUA WT3X NS3Y KT3Z</small> <b>2M NCS NA2E</b> <b>10M NCS ANYONE</b> <b>75M NCS W3RCE</b> <i>Easter</i>	<b>20</b> <small>W3PWG NS3Z</small>	<b>21</b> <small>N3ALW W2GMA WT3P</small> <b>CODE PRACTICE NET at 8 PM AK2I</b>	<b>22</b> <small>WA3AUN N3AXJ K3PHC K3VXU</small> <i>Secretaries' Day</i>	<b>23</b> <small>N3FVI AK2I</small>	<b>24</b> <small>WU3I W3LKI NS3Z</small> <div>Dayton Hamfest</div>	<b>25</b> <small>AG2H K3TEF NS3Y</small> <i>Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful Day</i>
<b>26</b> <small>AA2FU WB3JUA WT3X NS3Y KT3Z</small> <b>2M NCS KB3IV</b> <b>10M NCS ANYONE</b> <b>75M NCS AK2I</b> <i>Dayton Hamfest Ends</i>	<b>27</b> <small>W3PWG NS3Z</small>	<b>28</b> <small>N3ALW W2GMA WT3P</small> <b>CODE PRACTICE NET at 8 PM W3RM</b>	<b>29</b> <small>WA3AUN N3AXJ K3PHC K3VXU</small>  <b>OPERATORS' NET at 8 PM</b>	<b>30</b> <small>AK2I</small>		<i>No piper can please all ears.</i>